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4 February 1965

MEMORANDUM FOR: Assistant Director, Basic Intelligence  
SUBJECT : OCI Intelligence Handbook on Cuba

1. Your memorandum of 22 January raises certain questions about OCI's having produced and disseminated an "Intelligence Handbook on Cuba" after having previously argued against the scheduling of a Cuban NIS.

2. OCI's action on the Handbook was governed mainly by the following considerations:

a. An earlier Handbook on Cuba had been published in June 1962 in response to requests from various elements in Defense, State and DD/P, and OCI had been under pressure from various quarters for some time to update the original.

b. A Handbook is a much less demanding task than an NIS General Survey: it simply details the OB of the Cuban government and, inter alia, sketches the broad outlines of the economy; while a General Survey should attempt to locate the real loci of power in government and the forces which make that government effective or ineffective, aggressive or flaccid, etc.

c. The Handbook could be produced without deadlines and was, in fact, interrupted by higher priority demands for periods as long as two months.

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3. The new Handbook has been well received in a number of offices around town, and is generally regarded as a reference book quite different from the NIS and by no means duplicative.

  
Acting Assistant Director  
Current Intelligence

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22 January 1965

MEMORANDUM FOR R. Jack Smith

SUBJECT : OCI "Intelligence Handbook on Cuba",  
OCI 0331/65, dated January 1965

This Handbook, coming to the attention of OBI two days ago, has aspects which extend beyond the question of duplication of NIS content and relate to CIA's USIB-directed management of the NIS Program.

A variety of considerations could be cited in this kind of publication, but :

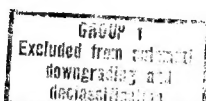
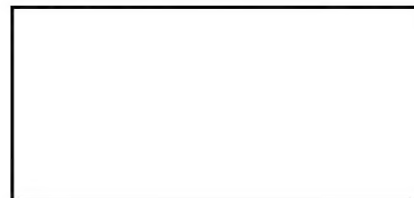
OBI proposed a General Survey for Cuba for the FY 1964 schedule. DIA was pressing for Cuba coverage. However, this General Survey was not included in the FY64 schedule because OCI argued against production on the basis of the fluidity in the Cuban situation -- a type of circumstance which is not unique and which a number of times has been constructively not permitted to be a determining factor for NIS purposes. A Cuban General Survey was again proposed for FY65, and again not included on this same basis. This General Survey was again proposed for FY66, and is now scheduled for publication around February 1966.

I do not know the dissemination of the Handbook but OBI received copy #298 and it would seem unlikely that DIA and State (and possibly others) will not be aware of the Handbook, and of allocation of production effort to it while a General Survey was being delayed. At lunch yesterday Allan Evans at State asked me how the NIS stood on a Cuban General Survey; he may or may not have known about the Handbook.

These circumstances can put the NIS Program, the Chairman of the NIS Committee, and the Agency in an unfortunate position vis-a-vis State and particularly DIA (where some actions have been taken to foster further reliance on NIS coverage, and we are continuously urging more).

These latter aspects relate to some views Ray Cline expressed in a discussion last Monday about the Agency's NIS management responsibilities, and extend my concern beyond the circumstances of this Cuban Handbook as such.

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